

INTERNATIONAL BUREAU OF WIPO

Int'l Appl. No.: PCT/US2005/038017	Int'l Filing Date: 20 October 2005	Earliest Priority Date Claimed: 26 October 2004
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Title of Invention:
FUNCTIONALIZED POLYMER WITH LINKING GROUP

First Named Applicant:
BRIDGESTONE CORPORATION

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INFORMAL COMMENTS ON THE WRITTEN OPINION OF THE ISA

The Written Opinion of the International Search Authority mailed 2 February 2006 has been received and considered. Applicants gratefully acknowledge industrial applicability of all original claims and novelty of original claims 18-19.

None of the cited references, alone or in combination, are believed to teach or suggest the present claims. In this regard, Applicants submit that

- the teaching of D5 has been misunderstood or mischaracterized, specifically, neither the examples nor claims of D5 appear to teach that a polymer reacted with a polysiloxane can be further reacted with an additional functional group-forming compound; and
- none of D1-D4 teach the use of a cyclic compound that includes at least one siloxane unit in its ring structure to provide a functionalized polymer that then can undergo additional functionalization.

Further, Applicants do not agree with the characterization of the problem to be solved; see, e.g., page 2, lines 1-9 of the specification as filed.

Finally, Applicants consider the items mentioned in Box VIII to be best handled during national phase proceedings.

Respectfully submitted,

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